

The VISINET Advisor

Staff Directory

Chief Executive Officer

John Powers

Chief Financial Officer

Michael Wehling

Director of Operations

Shelly Hart-Keller, Lincoln/Hastings/G.I.
John Hoffman, Omaha

Clinical Director

Michael R. Neise, PhD

Consulting Psychiatrists

Michael Coy, MD
Monica Ghosh, MD

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Coordinator

Cinda Konken

State Services Coordinators

Regina Lewis, Omaha Mindy Curtis, Lincoln
Peggy Michalski, Hastings/G.I.

State Services Supervisors (Omaha)

Andrea Jacobs Tracy Hortman
Angela Ertzner (Escort)

State Services Supervisors (Lincoln)

Leigh Loskill Brent Fuhr (Escort)
Michelle Hartman Emily Wesseln (Escort)
Sarah Stoddard (Hastings/G.I. Office)

IFP Coordinator

Cinda Konken, Lincoln

IFP/CTA Coordinator

Jim Livingston, Omaha

Therapy/CTA Coordinator

Dani Kessler, Omaha Jolene Herrell, Lincoln

Therapy/CTA Supervisor

Jen Stehlik, Omaha

Foster Care Coordinators

Robin Chadwell, Omaha
Rebecca Dacus, Lincoln (TFC)
Nanette Simmons, Lincoln (ABFC)

TFC Supervisors

Sharon Heckathorn, Omaha
Tiffany Redmond, Omaha

ABFC Supervisors

Cory Glause, Lincoln Paula Gepson, Omaha
Misty Crow, Omaha Wyvonne Harper, Omaha

Behavioral Learning Center Director (A Lincoln-Based Program)

Jennifer Baum, Lincoln

CCAA Evaluator (An Omaha-Based Program)

Kevin Berryman, Omaha

ICCU Supervisor (Lincoln)

Tonya Beckenhauer

ICCU Coordinators (Lincoln)

Jen Buresh Julie Mason Shawn Trimble
Shawna Keller Shawn Martindale
Lisa Kreifels Ty McGhee
Deb Mabon Kathy Miller

A Visinet, Inc. Publication

January 2006

From the Directors Desks

Contributed by John Powers, CEO

Mike Wehling, CFO

Shelly Hart-Keller, DO Lincoln/Hastings/G.I., John Hoffman, DO Omaha

The administrators and staff would like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to serving families in Nebraska.

As we head into our 12th year of service the agency is continuing to build new programs to extend our continuum of care and fill the gaps in service provision. Over the last 12 years Visinet has built a large continuum of service to assist children and families with diverse needs. This wrap-around philosophy has enabled the families to work in a cohesive and supportive environment which in turn increases the chances of overcoming systemic barriers. Visinet believes that everyone receiving services will develop best within the framework of respect, accountability and open communication. Visinet is, and will continue to be, Nebraska's leader in providing family centered home based services.

Visinet management looks forward to another year of providing outstanding services to children and families at risk. Visinet staff must work as a collective team to maintain the quality of services that has placed our services out in front.

In 2006 Visinet has plans to expand our services to populations other than those in child welfare. Watch for growth and development in the months to come.

JOB OPENINGS

Visinet, Inc. is accepting applications for the following positions:

NON-SALARIED POSITIONS

Foster Parents

Therapists

Supervised Visitation Specialists

Community Treatment Aides

Mental Health Transportation Workers/Escorts

Family Support Workers

"Visinet, Inc. employees are responsible for the information contained in this newsletter."

Family Centered In-Home Services



VISINET, INC.

Eastern Service Area

Corporate Headquarters

11836 Arbor Street

Omaha, NE 68144

Phone: 402.898.8881

Fax: 402.898.8886

www.visinetinc.com

STATE SERVICES SOUND OFF

Contributed by Regina Lewis and Mindy Curtis

The end of the year is a time to discard old habits and embrace new habits. Instead of making ridiculous resolutions to stop eating carbohydrates or to only smoke on Tuesdays, why not join Visinet in its resolution to increase safety during service provision?

One way that Visinet is resolving to increase safety is to limit the number of locations during visits or sessions. Visits or sessions need to be arranged to take place at one location and remain at that location. For example, if a family starts a visit at a restaurant, the VS/FSW will not be able to drive clients to a second location, such as the library or a park. Similarly, FS one-on-one sessions that include finding resources in the community will need to be planned in advance to decrease transportation. Please join Visinet in its resolution to increase safety for our clients.

Another resolution to consider is attempting to contact foster parents, parents, and case managers within 24 hours of receiving a new referral. If you are unable to reach one party, please continue to attempt to reach other parties. Parents, foster parents, and case managers are often anxious for visits to begin, so making contacts within 24 hours will help alleviate some anxiety. Happy New Year!

IFP POINTS TO PONDER

Contributed by Jim Livingston and Cinda Konken

As IFP staff, we often receive requests to drive to multiple locations while serving our families. Sometimes extra driving is necessary and required by the treatment plan. At other times, extra driving is done out of a convenience and courtesy for our clients.

It is Visinet Inc.'s philosophy that driving should be kept to a minimum working with clients. By doing so, the risk of driving related injuries is greatly reduced for both the client and the IFP worker.

All sessions with clients need to take place at a pre-identified, primary location; multiple locations during service provision are not acceptable. If an IFP therapist or skill builder is going to be working with clients in the community on an identified goal or as a positive reinforcement for maintaining appropriate behaviors, the location needs to be pre-approved by a program coordinator.

TREATMENT/AGENCY BASED

FOSTER CARE FACTS

Contributed by Robin Chadwell, Nanette Simmons, Rebecca Dacus

An announcement from the foster care program: Duncan Evans is a new ABFC supervisor in the Omaha office. Congratulations Duncan!

This is a new year and a good time for everyone to have a new, fresh attitude. Focus on the positive things in the program and with the youth. If you are having trouble or feeling overwhelmed, please communicate with your supervisor or coordinator.

There are addendums for the Foster Parent Handbook, and the Program Specific Manual. Please have everyone sign off on these. It is important to read through the changes or the amendments to the manuals. A couple of the changes are: Respite Care for the Continuity of Care youth is \$25 for a twenty four hour period. Another change is that all medications, to include client medications, foster parent medications and other medications taken by household members are to be stored in the locked boxes. Access to the box, key and medications is to be limited to foster parents or an assigned representative over the age of nineteen (19) years. The foster parents must hand the medication directly to the intended youth, watch the child place the medications in his/her mouth, drink the liquid and make sure he/she swallowed the tablets. Please refer to the Foster Parent Handbook for all the specific details in regards to the foster parent documentation expectations, medication logs, and medication dispensing.

We continue to seek new foster parents. If you know of anyone interested in any area in or around Omaha or Lincoln, please have them call Darin Severson in Omaha or Nanette Simmons in Lincoln. A \$100 referral bonus can be earned for current foster parents.

Visinet, Inc. offers a complete full-time benefits package including medical, dental and life insurances, 401(k) plan with company match, paid time off and more. Contact your service coordinator for more information, see if you qualify and find out the requirements.

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Articles contributed by Dani Kessler, Jim Livingston and Jolene Herrell

CTA CONNECTION

If you are having trouble getting your client to do something when you ask, have him become a member of "The First Time Club."
Make up a chart with 30 squares.

Tell the child that each time he does something the first time he is asked, a happy face will be placed in a square. When all the squares are completed, he will earn a reward.

Mutually agree on the reward. For younger children, you can place a picture of the reward on the chart or for older children you can write it on the chart.

Then practice with the child how he is to behave. "Each time I ask you to do something, I want you to: (1) Use good eye contact, (2) Listen quietly, (3) Say OK I will _____. then (4) Do it." Practice this, making a number of requests.

Then start the program.

Be sure to praise him for each success during practice as well as when the program starts. By the time the squares are filled, he will have developed a new habit. When he completes the program, provide the reward immediately. Take the chart down and let him have it as part of the reward. Continue to use praise and encouragement to make sure this new habit remains and becomes even stronger.

BEHAVIORAL LEARNING CENTER

Contributed by Jenny Baum

The BLC decided to have Secret Santa for the children this year. How this worked was each child received a name and on the day of the Winter Party/Festival they needed to bring a \$5.00 gift for the child. The BLC Winter Party/Festival was on Thursday, December 22 at 4:00.

The BLC will be getting re-licensed in January, so that is very exciting for the center. The staff have been working very hard to get the center into excellent shape for the evaluation.

Also, the BLC is currently recruiting more children during the morning and afternoon hours to really focus on the pre-school academics.

All Visinet, Inc. field employees are required to attend a 30-minute weekly meeting with their supervisor. Employees in a dual role will attend weekly meetings with each supervisor. If you cannot attend your scheduled weekly meeting you must call your supervisor in advance to reschedule.

IN-HOME THERAPY NEWS

As the seasons change to fall and winter, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) advises that some people may begin to suffer some symptoms of depression that can appear gradually or that come on all at once. These symptoms often dissipate when spring arrives and stay in remission through the summer months. Symptoms of depression that come during the colder months can be associated with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). This mood disorder is often attributed to the lack of light during the colder months of the year.

SAD has been linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain brought on by the shortening of daylight hours and a lack of sunlight in winter. The most difficult months for SAD sufferers are January and February. Younger persons and women are thought to be at higher risk.

- excessive sleeping, difficulty staying awake, overeating, and weight gain during the fall or winter months;
- feelings of extreme fatigue, inability to maintain regular lifestyle schedule;
- depression (feelings of sadness, loss of feelings, apathy) combined with irritability;
- lack of interest in social interactions, losing interest in activities of enjoyment; remission of symptoms in the spring and summer months.

If you feel you are suffering from SAD, consult with your doctor about possible treatment options.

IN-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Submitted by Various Contributors

Mark your calendars for upcoming CEU's:

Omaha

MANDT Training:

Tuesday, Jan. 17th—9a

Physical Component:

Wednesday, Jan 18th—6p

MANDT Training:

Thursday, Jan. 19th & Tuesday, Jan. 24—6p-9p

(*Must attend both nights)

First Aid/CPR:

Friday, Jan. 20th—9a-3p



VISINET, INC.

- Treatment Foster Care
- Agency Based Foster Care
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Individual and Family Therapy
- Outpatient Psychological Services
- Outpatient Psychiatric Services
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Behavioral Learning Center
- Community Treatment Aide
- Crisis Intervention
- Family Support
- Supervised Visitation
- Escort/Transportation

PHILOSOPHY

Visinet, Inc. believes that working with the entire family within their natural environment is essential. Service design must be individually tailored to suit each family in order to implement the most effective methods, thereby reducing significant barriers. Visinet stresses the need for culturally competent professionals that have the ability to assess clients within the family's own cultural and social context. We believe that everyone receiving services will develop best within the framework of respect, accountability, and open communication.

MISSION

Visinet's mission is to provide families and individuals with a stable, nurturing and secure environment for the promotion of healthier family functioning. We encourage people to be self-sufficient; utilizing community resources when necessary. Every effort should be made to prevent extended out of home placement and maintain the least restrictive environment possible.

GOAL

Visinet's goal is to provide families and individuals the skills necessary to improve their quality of life.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Omaha Office:

5 years
Patra Pakieser

4 years
Matt McCoy
Angie Morris

3 years
Eve Jarboe
Matt Squarcia

Lincoln Office:

11 years
Connie Dewey
Shelly Hart-Keller
Linda Kistler
Cinda Konken

6 years
Linoma Wingate

4 years
Pam Hough

1 year
Leah DuPont

GI/Hastings Offices:

10 years
Peggy Michalski

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA)

Standard Update: Case Supervision G9.6.04
As of December 1, 2005 COA has revised the G9.6.04 standard. The standard used to read "Case supervision is documented in the case record and includes the supervisor's signature." The new revised standard now reads "Case supervision is documented and includes the supervisor's signature." This new standard allows for greater flexibility when determining how to document and maintain supervision notes. Supervisors please make sure you are signing the supervision note.

The Lincoln Advisory Board will be meeting in January and the Omaha Advisory Board met in December.

RISK MANAGEMENT

During the next Risk Management meeting, we will be discussing frequency of emergency drills and evacuations. In addition, the new MANDT and physical intervention policy will be reviewed. Please make sure to review this policy in its entirety. In reviewing incident reports from 4th quarter, please make sure that you are notifying Dr. Michael Neise if a client is experiencing suicidal or homicidal ideations, gestures or attempts. Also make sure to check with your coordinator about the emergency reporting protocol as it seems that this is a frequent area of concern. When submitting Incident reports please remember to include the family name if it is different from the client name and make sure the incident report is submitted to your supervisor within the allotted time frame. The Risk Management Committee wants you all to have a safe holiday season so remember to drive carefully, wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers are buckled in as well. Don't take unnecessary chances in bad weather.

HUMAN RESOURCES, RETENTION, AND RECRUITMENT (HRRR)

The Human Resource Recruitment and Retention (HRRR) Committee is planning their next meeting for January. The Committee continues to gather suggestions and take notes for upcoming topics to be discussed. Lincoln had a very successful Lunch and Learn on December 12th. There was a speaker from The Safety Council of Nebraska to talk to us about Safe Driving/Winter Driving. It was very informative and well received by everyone. The Omaha office will be presenting their next Lunch and Learn in January.

Eastern Service Area
11836 Arbor Street
Omaha, NE 68144
Phone: 402.898.8881
Fax: 402.898.8886

Southeast Service Area
3940 Cornhusker Hwy, Suite 600
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 402.464.8866
Fax: 402.464.8879

South Central Service Area
1020 W 2nd St.
Grand Island, NE 68801
Phone: 308.398.4662
Fax: 308.398.4665